

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine comprising:

means for moving a web of packaging material through the machine according to a process path; [[and]]

means for transforming the web into filled bags, ~~furthermore comprising; and~~

a zipper strip applicator device having means for supplying a zipper strip for each bag transverse to the process path, ~~which supply means~~ said means for supplying comprise a first and a second conveyor, which in the supply direction of the zipper strip are placed one behind the other and are both provided with means for retaining or engaging the zipper strip during supply, a blade being placed between the first and the second conveyor for cutting the zipper strip,

wherein [[the]] said means for retaining or engaging the zipper strip of both the first and second conveyor include vacuum means [[and]] that retain or engage the zipper strip at various locations along [[the]] a length of the zipper strip.

2. (original) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 1, wherein the first conveyor and the second conveyor are driven by one single drive.

3. (original) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 1, wherein the first conveyor and the second conveyor are positioned below the process path of the web to support the zipper strip.

4. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 1, ~~provided with~~ further comprising means for adjusting ~~[[the]]~~ an active length of the vacuum means for the second conveyor.

5. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 4, ~~the control~~ said means for adjusting being provided with means for comparing an entered zipper strip length and the position in transverse direction to the web and the adjusted length of the vacuum means, and ~~[[of]]~~ with means for releasing ~~the drive of the machine~~ said means for moving a web based on the outcome of said comparison.

6. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 5, wherein the means for adjusting ~~the active length of~~

~~the vacuum means for the second conveyor comprising~~ further comprises a tube to be connected to a vacuum source, ~~which tube in its~~ a circumference of said tube is provided with a series of apertures of different length extending in a longitudinal ~~[[tube]]~~ direction of the tube, ~~and which said tube~~ is rotatable in an adjustable manner to let a selected series of apertures form the connection between the apertures in the vacuum band and the tube.

7. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 1, ~~provided with~~ further comprising:

means for driving said first and second conveyors; and
means for controlling said means for driving, said means
for controlling also controlling ~~control means for the first and~~
~~second drive means~~ and the blade, the ~~control~~ means for
controlling being adjusted to consecutively operate the ~~first~~
~~drive means~~ for driving to transfer a predetermined length of
zipper strip to the second conveyor, to subsequently operate the
blade and then operate the second conveyor for positioning the
cut-off zipper strip portion transverse to the web.

8. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 7, ~~the control~~ said means for controlling being adjusted to let ~~[[both]]~~ conveyors move at the same speed during the supply of the length of zipper strip.

9. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 8, the retaining means of the first and the second conveyors being controlled by the ~~control~~ means for controlling.

10. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 9, wherein said ~~the control~~ means for controlling ~~being~~ is adjusted for continuously activating the engaging means of the first and second conveyors.

11. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine comprising:

means for moving a web of packaging material through the machine according to a process path; [[and]]

means for transforming the web into filled bags[[,]] ;
and furthermore comprising

a zipper strip applicator device having means for supplying a zipper strip for each bag transverse to the process path, ~~which supply~~ said means for supplying comprise a first and a second conveyor, which in the supply direction of the zipper strip are placed one behind the other and are both provided with means for retaining or engaging the zipper strip during supply, a blade being placed between the first and the second conveyor for cutting the zipper strip,

wherein the first conveyor and the second conveyor are positioned below the process path of the web to support the zipper strip.

12. (original) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 11, wherein the means for retaining or engaging the zipper strip include vacuum means.

13. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 12, ~~provided with~~ further comprising means for adjusting ~~[[the]]~~ an active length of the vacuum means for the second conveyor.

14. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 13, ~~the control~~ wherein said means for adjusting being provided with means for comparing an entered zipper strip length and the position in transverse direction to the web and the adjusted length of the vacuum means, and ~~[[of]]~~ with means for releasing ~~the drive of the machine~~ said means for moving a web based on the outcome of said comparison.

15. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 14, wherein the means for adjusting further comprises the ~~active length of the vacuum means for the second conveyor~~

~~comprising~~ a tube to be connected to a vacuum source, ~~which tube~~
~~in its~~ a circumference of said tube is provided with a series of
apertures of different length extending in ~~[[tube]]~~ a longitudinal
direction of the tube, ~~and which is said tube is~~ rotatable in an
adjustable manner to let a selected ~~series~~ one of apertures form
the connection between ~~[[the]]~~ apertures in the vacuum band and
the tube.

16. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according
to claim 11, ~~provided with~~ further comprising:

means for driving said first and second conveyors; and
means for controlling said means for driving, said means
for controlling also controlling ~~control means for the first and~~
~~second drive means and the blade, the control means for~~
controlling being adjusted to consecutively operate the ~~first~~
~~drive means~~ for driving to transfer a predetermined length of
zipper strip to the second conveyor, to subsequently operate the
blade and then operate the second conveyor for positioning the
cut-off zipper strip portion transverse to the web.

17. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according
to claim 16, ~~the control~~ wherein said means for controlling ~~being~~
is adjusted to let both conveyors move at the same speed during
the supply of the length of zipper strip.

18. (original) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 17, wherein the first conveyor and the second conveyor are driven by one single drive.

19. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 16, the retaining means of the first and the second conveyors being controlled by the ~~control~~ means for controlling.

20. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 19, wherein said ~~the control~~ means for controlling ~~being~~ is adjusted for continuously activating the engaging means of the first and second conveyors.

21. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine comprising:

means for moving a web of packaging material through the machine according to a process path; [[and]]

means for transforming the web into filled bags[[,]]; and ~~furthermore comprising~~

a zipper strip applicator device having means for supplying a zipper strip for each bag transverse to the process path, ~~which supply~~ said means for supplying ~~comprise~~ a first and a second conveyor, which in the supply direction of the zipper strip

are placed one behind the other and are both provided with means for retaining or engaging the zipper strip during supply, a blade being placed between the first and the second conveyor for cutting the zipper strip,

wherein the first conveyor and the second conveyor are similar and are driven by one single drive and the means for retaining or engaging the zipper strip include vacuum means.

22. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 21, ~~provided with~~ further comprising means for adjusting [[the]] an active length of the vacuum means for the second conveyor.

23. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 22, ~~the control~~ wherein said means for adjusting being provided with means for comparing an entered zipper strip length and the position in transverse direction to the web and the adjusted length of the vacuum means, and [[of]] with means for releasing ~~the drive of the machine~~ said means for moving a web based on the outcome of said comparison.

24. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 23, wherein the means for adjusting further comprises the ~~active length of the vacuum means for the second conveyor~~

~~comprising~~ a tube to be connected to a vacuum source, ~~which tube~~
~~in its~~ a circumference of said tube is provided with a series of
apertures of different length extending in ~~[[tube]]~~ a longitudinal
direction of the tube, ~~and which is said tube is~~ rotatable in an
adjustable manner to let a selected ~~series~~ one of apertures form
the connection between ~~[[the]]~~ apertures in the vacuum band and
the tube.

25. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according
to claim 21, wherein at least the second conveyor ~~being~~ is placed
below the web.

26. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according
to claim 21, ~~provided with~~ further comprising:

means for driving said first and second conveyors; and
means for controlling said means for driving, said means
for controlling also controlling ~~control means for the first and~~
~~second drive means and~~ the blade, the ~~control~~ means for
controlling being adjusted to consecutively operate the ~~first~~
~~drive~~ means for driving to transfer a predetermined length of
zipper strip to the second conveyor, to subsequently operate the
blade and then operate the second conveyor for positioning the
cut-off zipper strip portion transverse to the web.

27. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 26, ~~the control~~ wherein said means for controlling being is adjusted to let both conveyors move at the same speed during the supply of the length of zipper strip.

28. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 27, wherein the retaining means of the first and the second conveyors ~~being~~ are controlled by the means for controlling control means.

29. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine according to claim 28, wherein said ~~the control~~ means for controlling being is adjusted for continuously activating the engaging means of the first and second conveyors.

30. (currently amended) Form-fill-seal machine comprising;

means for moving a web of packaging material through the machine according to a process path; [[and]]

means for transforming the web into filled bags[[,]]; and further comprising

a zipper strip applicator device having means for supplying a zipper strip for each bag transverse to the process

path, ~~which supply~~ said means for supplying comprise a conveyor positioned transverse to the process path, which is positioned to support the zipper strip and is provided with vacuum operated means for retaining the zipper strip during the supply and pre-sealing at the lower side of the web.